

REMARKS

Claims 2-3 and 12-16 are pending in the application.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 2, 3, and 12 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Jairam et al. (USP 6,676,022). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Jairam discloses a stapler (10) provided with a paper guide (14) for aligning and locating papers to be stapled (see col. 1, lines 5-7). The paper guide (14) can be quickly and easily adjusted between substantially locked positions (see col. 2, lines 10-12). More specifically, the paper guide (14) is coupled to a base (18) and movable between a first substantially locked and immovable position and a second substantially locked and immovable position (see col. 2, lines 16-21). The base (18) defines a longitudinal axis and includes a slot (78) extending between the top and bottom surfaces (22, 26) in the direction of the longitudinal axis (see col. 2, lines 36-39). The paper guide further includes a pin (82) coupled to a body portion (66) of the paper guide (14) and extending through the slot (78) to guide the movement of the body portion (66) of the paper guide (14) in the direction of the longitudinal axis (see col. 2, lined 39-43).

Jairam also discloses a method of adjusting a paper guide on a stapler (see col. 2, lines 44-45). The method includes moving a locking member (106) relative to the body portion (66) to an unlocked position with out accessing the bottom surface (26), moving the body portion (66) relative to the base (18), and moving the locking member (106) relative to the body portion (66) to a locked position (see col. 2, lines 47-51).

Moreover, Jairam states that paper guide projections (94) (of the paper guide (14)) each include an angled surface (98) configured to receive and align a plurality of sheets (46) in the manner illustrated in Fig. 2 (see col. 4, lines 33-36).

In, Jairam, however, the a paper guide (14), which corresponds to the “paper stop” of the present invention, merely slides along the slot (78) as a whole, and does not have “an angular part retained in a rotatable manner by the holder,” as recited in claim 12. Accordingly, Jairam fails to disclose or suggest the “paper stop” as recited in claim 12.

Claims 2 and 3, variously dependent on claim 12, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 12.

The Examiner is respectfully requested to reconsider and withdraw this rejection.

#### Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants appreciate the Examiner’s indication that claims 13-16 would be allowable if rewritten in independent claim form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

In view of this, claim 13 has been amended to include all of the limitations of claim 12 to place it in condition for allowance.

Claims 14-16, dependent on claim 13, are allowable at least for their dependency on claim 13.

A favorable determination by the Examiner and allowance of these claims is earnestly solicited.

Conclusion

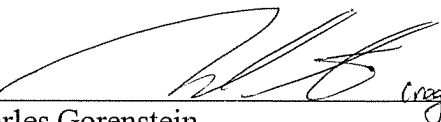
Accordingly, in view of the above amendments and remarks, reconsideration of the rejections and objections, and allowance of the pending claims are earnestly solicited.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Maki Hatsumi (#40,417) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or to credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

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Respectfully submitted,

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